

THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL.

WILMINGTON, N. C., FRIDAY, DEC. 25, 1897.

TRANSIENT Advertisers will please bear in mind that their advertisements cannot appear in this paper, without first being paid for in advance. This rule will be strictly carried out, without regard to persons. No name for either the Daily or Weekly Journal, will be inserted on our list without payment being made in advance, and the paper will in all cases be discontinued when the time paid for expires.

Death of Judge Potter.

We copy from the Fayetteville Observer, the announcement of the death of that venerable citizen of our State, who had been for many years the oldest office-holder in the United States, having received his appointment from Thomas Jefferson at the beginning of the present century. We leave those who knew him best to speak his eulogy. All admit that he was a good and pure man, and what is of more importance now, a sincere Christian.

By this dispensation, a vacancy is left in the office which he so long held, and the appointment of a successor will devolve upon the administration of Mr. Buchanan. Who the applicants for that position may be, or whose claims may be pressed upon the attention of the Executive, we have no means of ascertaining, neither have we any desire to express an opinion or urge a preference as between men, at the present time; we refer to the matter now for a different purpose—with the view of urging considerations of a different character. It may be that in doing so, we may appear to be actuated by selfish motives, so far at least as our town is concerned, but we trust that the gravity of the interests involved will form our excuse and the considerations themselves will be of sufficient weight to justify their being brought forward.

The State of North Carolina forms one United States Judicial District, which is subdivided into the three local districts of Albemarle, Pamlico and Cape Fear. The courts for these subordinate districts being held at Edenton, Newberne and Wilmington, respectively. Those familiar with the business of the Court, inform us that nine-tenths of that business is in the district of Cape Fear—at the port of Wilmington. Certainly, the very great majority of the business of the United States District Court of North Carolina comes from this place—cases from any other point are simply exceptional.

The jurisdiction of the Court is maritime—it is in cases concerning vessels and seamen. Its necessity arises out of the necessities of trade, and to meet these necessities, its action ought to be prompt and always available. It cannot be so unless the Judge resides at the principal seaport town within his district. Instances occur every day, in which, by the delay necessary to go to a distant point to obtain the intervention of a Judge, the ends of justice are defeated. This ought not to be. A defaulting vessel may easily escape before an order from a distant Judge can be procured for her detention. A vessel may be injuriously tied up before an order for her release can be obtained.

If we are rightly informed, the greater portion of the duties of a United States District Judge devolve upon him in vacation, and these duties are of a character that to be done well, or, perhaps, done at all, in many cases must be done promptly—to be done promptly, they must be done by a Judge residing at that point at which the main part of the business arises; and in North Carolina, that point is Wilmington.

Respect for the great age of the late venerable incumbent, prevented complaint from being made upon this score. That our mercantile community has suffered is notorious; and now, when the time has arrived for a new appointment to be made, the time also has come when an effort should be made to procure relief from the inconveniences and delays complained of.

Although the District Court has criminal jurisdiction in all cases occurring on the high seas, it is notorious that no Grand Jury has ever been attached to the Court here; the truth being that jurors could not be found to wait a redress of their wrongs until the period for the rare sessions of the Court should come round. So that, practically, there has been without redress. A resident Judge could easily dispose promptly of all cases so arising.

Now, as to the individual to be appointed, we have nothing to say; nor even as to his present residence—that is not our business. But we think that a regard for justice, and for the efficiency of the office, requires that the Judge should reside here. We think the mercantile community have a right to expect, if not to demand it.

A portion of the Democracy of Cleveland county held a meeting at Shelby, on the 15th inst., at which delegates were appointed to the next Democratic State Convention. The meeting suggested that the Convention be held at Salisbury, on the second Wednesday in February. To the holding of the Convention at Salisbury, we down here have no manner of objection—we would like it. Many of us desire to avail ourselves of the opportunity of meeting our Western brethren a little nearer their own homes. But we must protest against the time named. It is in the dead of winter. About the worst time in the year. There is no necessity for such haste. No Convention could be held so soon. A few delegates from a few counties might gather, but no bona fide Convention. From this section no delegates can be appointed before the holding of the county Courts in the spring. It would be impossible to get a full and fairly appointed representation until after the meeting of the county Courts in February and March, and traveling would not be fully opened until April.

In any apparent difficulties arising out of the efforts at division by a few persons, there is no cause for precipitation, but on the contrary every motive for coolness and deliberation. The longer the campaign is deferred, the longer time will the opposition have to develop the total want of cohesion among its members under whatever flag they may attempt to rally, especially if that flag be one raised by a disorganizing member of the Democratic party. We will abide the action of the majority, but hope that that action may not be precipitate. We only want a full attendance.

Financial Statement.

We have before us the annual report of Mr. Morris, Town Clerk and Treasurer, showing the financial operations of the town for the past year. The amount of town taxes assessed and collected by the collector, is \$37,331.18, of which \$10,948.09 was still to be collected on the 21st inst. There has been received from other sources \$10,262.50. The disbursements appear to have been \$36,645.59, minus \$57.86 carried to new account. The aggregate receipts \$36,646.59. The Bank debt for town purposes, as well as for Town Hall and Theatre, is \$22,413.85. To the Town Hall and Theatre \$12,243.84 has been advanced—that is, over twenty-seven thousand dollars have been spent on this building, while the debt immediately created in that name has been \$17,400.

Of the disbursements, \$9,187.63 is classed as "Miscellaneous," \$9,063.14 charged to "Police Department," \$2,524.11 to "Fire Department," \$1,836.14 "Cleaning and Labor on Streets," \$1,782.57, "Gas Light," \$12,242.84, "Town Hall and Theatre," this being exclusive of the money borrowed from Bank for that purpose.

THE NEW HALL.—The members of the House of Representatives have taken possession of their new hall, and are not pleased. They think with regret of the old one. Perhaps they had got used to it—perhaps its associations were inspiring—perhaps the old hall is in some respects superior to the new one. It certainly surpasses it in loftiness, grandeur and simplicity. Men already complain that the new hall is too fine—too meretricious—too much like Taylor's New York Restaurant. Its colors too glaring—its gold too shiny—the whole thing too conspicuous.

Christmas is coming.—It will be here to-morrow, and from all appearances it will be a dull one. We take time by the forelock, and sincerely trust it may be a merry and a happy one to all our readers, especially to all our patrons. We have a theory of our own that they deserve it.

We had promised, as late as Tuesday last, to sit down last night (Wednesday) and compound a Christmas Address for our Carrier, but before Wednesday our Chief Carrier had departed this State—had slipped—run away—broken his indentures and departed for Florida on board the Steamer Carolina, urged thereto by unprincipled relatives. The boy, Timothy Murphy, was a good boy, but had not the choice of who should be his mother or his step-father.

We trust that the year to come will differ from that which is now about to close. During 1897, Providence smiled upon an ungrateful world. No pestilence has devastated this or any other land. The earth has yielded her produce abundantly. Yet the East has trembled with blood—Christian and Pagan have vied with each other in acts of outrage and atrocity. The granaries of the West have been filled to bursting, and the crops of Europe have been more than an average. Yet the credit of the merchant has tottered—the earnings of toilsome years have vanished in a day—the unemployed laborer has heard his children wail for bread. The widow and the orphan have sorrowed almost without hope. Our visitations have been those of human folly, wickedness or cupidity, and not the visitations of God.

But another year is coming—it will open with pain, difficulty and embarrassment to many. Nothing can really bring things out but universal diligence, economy and mutual forbearance. There never was a gloom so hopeless that these qualities, firmly exerted in good faith, could not dispel. Providence never smiled so brightly, but that their want could turn these smiles unto gloom. Oh let us strive to be rather than to seem. Let us shun the hollow glare of extravagance—of hypocrisy—of affectation—one year of genuine manhood and womanhood would do great things for the world—greater than vast crops or much gold.

But why moralize—the world will wag its own way—a good sort of world in the main. Let not us turn censors. Of just such people as the present reader and the present writer is this world of ours made up—none much better, and only a few much worse. Let us keep our own house in order—our own course straight, and our duty will have been done.—Daily Journal of yesterday.

The North Carolina Journal of Education.

We are in receipt of the first number of the above periodical, issued under the auspices of the Educational Association of North Carolina, and edited by a board of gentlemen representing the leading institutions of learning throughout the State, with whom is associated Rev. C. H. Wiley, Superintendent of Common Schools. It is printed at Greensboro, by Messrs. Ogden, Cole & Albright, and published under the immediate supervision of "J. D. Campbell, Resident Editor." Price \$2 a year.

As its name implies, it is to be mainly devoted to the advancement of educational progress in North Carolina from its basis in the Common Schools of the State, to its more elaborate development in the different academies and collegiate institutions within her borders, and is designed to bring about harmony, system and mutual co-operation with the view of securing increased efficiency. The first number is a good one and augurs success.

The publishers do their part well. The Journal is neatly and correctly printed and rather in advance of time—a great point. It is always bad to be behind in a work of this kind.

Governor Rencher.—We notice that Hon. Abraham Rencher, of this State, recently appointed Governor of New Mexico, arrived at Santa Fe on the 11th ult., accompanied by his family. The Governor was greeted by a public reception. Col. John B. Grayson, on behalf of the citizens, welcomed him to his post in a short address, to which Mr. Rencher promptly responded. The proceedings of the day were wound up by a banquet in the Legislative hall, where the usual toasts were drunk, and the usual speeches made. We understand that Mr. Rencher has made large investments in mining property in New Mexico.

The Steamer Carolina.—of the Charleston and Florida line, arrived here during last night, with a number of negroes on board, who had been hired out South—chiefly on the Florida Railroad, we believe. She goes back to Charleston this forenoon. The Carolina is a fine boat, but we should prefer land travel at this season of seafaring even on the Great Eastern. The sea is very wet, and the water is salt, and there are sharks in it. Still, as we said before, the Carolina is a fine boat, a large boat, a comfortable boat; and if we had to go to sea, we would just as soon go on the Carolina as any boat we know of, especially as we learn that the officers are very clever gentlemen.

Daily Journal, 23d inst.

NEWSPAPER CHANGE.—On the first day of January, 1898, the Warrenton, N. C., News, will cease to be a semi-weekly paper, and will be published as a weekly. It will be much enlarged and improved.

We doubt the policy of attempting any issue more frequent than a weekly one, outside of Wilmington, Fayetteville or Raleigh, and therefore believe that, in bringing the News back to the old weekly standard, Mr. Walsh, the Editor and Proprietor, is pursuing a prudent course, and trust that he will meet with abundant success, as we feel confident that he will make a good Democratic newspaper.

Dwyer's Eulogium.—John Hanbury Dwyer was for years a teacher of elocution in New York, and pronounced by many competent judges to have been among the most eminent elocutionists that we have ever had in this country. The New Orleans Picayune, some months ago used the following language: "Mr. Dwyer was a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin. To the taste and manners of a gentleman, he added great cultivation and intelligence, and he was the best reader we ever had. His widow, in offering his works for sale, is pursuing her only means of livelihood, and we sincerely trust she may be as successful in our city as in others."

Mr. Dwyer is now in Wilmington procuring subscribers for the work. Upon the list she has already obtained, we notice the names of many of the most eminent men in the nation.

KANSAS.—The news from Kansas is unfortunate, looking as it appears to point to further disturbance. We don't care for the shooting of the notorious "Jim Lane," he ought to have been hung long ago, and he perished—if he is dead—by the hand of an individual with whom he had quarrelled, not in any regular riot or melee. The Lord knows what will come of it all. We will not think nor hear of such matters until after Christmas.

Barum's place of Iranian was burned down on last Thursday night and went off with much brilliancy. We believe it was partially insured. Everything connected with Barum has a certain character of publicity and is "bound to shine," but Iranian, in its last moments was the most glorious of them all. Well, we are sorry that it is gone—there are worse men than Barum, and his house was said to have been the seat of a liberal hospitality.

Our Associate acknowledges the receipt of a bag of flour, made at the Cape Fear Flour Mill, in this town, of very superior quality. It works up well, so the cook says, and is very white, equal to the best of brands. It gives us pleasure to recommend the Mill to the favorable patronage of the public.

Trouble among the Crinolines.—The hiding place of Wm. B. Legs, Esq., the redoubtable leader of the Florida B. Legs, has been discovered, and his women and children captured. There is much fuss among the Indian belles, and copper-colored crinolines is excited. Mr. B. Legs don't know what to do, and those who have been fattening on contracts connected with the Florida "war," are badly scared, lest their occupation should be gone.

Sudden Death.—We learn from the last Salisbury Watchman, that Mr. George W. Brown, a merchant of that place was struck down by paralysis on Friday afternoon last, and died at his residence in about five hours after being attacked.

Rhodod Super-Phosphate of Lime. We call attention to the advertisement of Messrs. B. M. Rhodes & Co., of Baltimore, in the issue of this morning, who introduce to our Planters, through their agents, Messrs. Keith & Plummer, the above preparation. The Charleston Evening News in noticing this fertilizer says:

The article comes to our notice in a manner entirely unusual for manufactured fertilizers, having the substantial endorsement of Dr. James Higgins, State Chemist of Maryland, in connection with Dr. Charles Bickell, the eminent Analytic Chemist, who has written a letter to a leading planter of Baltimore, endorsing the use of the fertilizer, and recommending it for cotton culture. Mr. Rhodes who has been attending our late Institute Exhibition, has also with him a diploma of first-class, awarded this article by the Maryland Institute.

Congress—Friday, Dec. 18. **SENATE.**—The death of Hon. John G. Montgomery, a member elect of the House of Representatives from Pennsylvania, having been announced in a message from that body, Mr. Bigler delivered an appropriate eulogy on the character of the deceased, and submitted a resolution that the Senate go into mourning by wearing crepe on the left arm for thirty days. The Senate then adjourned. After the usual morning business, the Senate resumed the consideration of the treasury-note bill, which was discussed by Messrs. Hunter, Seward, Simmons, Crittenden and Bell until the hour of adjournment.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—A select committee of five was appointed, on motion of Mr. Cleggman, to investigate and report upon the conduct and accounts of the Clerk of the House during the last Congress, and also upon the inferior quality of stationery. From the Committee of Ways and Means, Hon. J. Glancy Jones reported a bill to authorize an issue of treasury notes to the amount of \$20,000,000, being the same with the Senate bill on this subject. The bill was then taken up and discussed by Messrs. Milson, Wilcox, and Mason until six o'clock, when, without disposing of the subject, the Senate adjourned.

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Congress—Monday, Dec. 21. **SENATE.**—After the usual morning business, was transacted, among other things being the introduction of a homestead bill by Mr. Johnson, of Tennessee. The remainder of the day was spent in the discussion of the Kansas policy of the President's message, in which Messrs. Fitch, Douglas, and also, replying in faith to Mr. Stuart still retaining the floor on this subject. After the consideration of executive business the Senate adjourned.

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Death of Judge Potter. Our venerable and greatly esteemed fellow citizen, the Hon. HENRY POTTER, died at his residence in this vicinity yesterday at 3 o'clock. He had been confined to his bed for four weeks past, and considering his age, his tenacity of life was wonderful. He suffered much in body, but his mind was clear and his resignation in faith on his Redeemer, waiting for "the end of earth," expecting it, and surprised that it was so long deferred.—Truly, "his end was peace."

Judge Potter was in the 93d year of his age, having been born in 1765. He has held the office of Judge of the U. S. District Court since 1861, when it was conferred on him by President Jefferson.

We have so recently published a biographical sketch of our venerable friend, that it is needless to repeat here the incidents, or to sketch his character. Suffice it to say that he has fallen into the tomb at a ripe old age, and that his memory will be dear to many in this and other communities.

His funeral will be held on Monday, at 11 o'clock, A. M., from the Presbyterian Church, of which he was for many years a ruling elder.—Fay, Ochs.

DEATH OF JAMES MEANE.—We regret to hear of the departure of another venerable citizen of our State.—James Meane, at the age of about 84 years, dropped down and expired without a struggle on Saturday the 12th inst. at his residence in Caswell county. He had breakfasted in apparently good health, walked to his mill and back, and was conversing with his daughter-in-law at the moment of his fall.

He formerly represented his native county of Orange in both branches of the Legislature, and was Speaker of one of them. Trustee of the University, Magistrate, Elder of the Presbyterian Church, &c. In every relation of life, public and private, he maintained the highest character for integrity and intelligence.—Id.

Further from Kansas. St. Louis, Dec. 17.—The Kansas letters to the Democrat say that an attempt is being made along the border counties of Missouri to form companies of voters to control the election to be held in the Territory on the 21st inst. At a mass convention, held at Leocompton on the 7th inst., resolutions were passed endorsing the proceedings of the convention held at Lawrence on the 2d, and pledging themselves, individually and collectively, to oppose to the utmost the constitution adopted at Leocompton, and to resist every attempt made to put into operation State government under the same.

More Indian Fighting in Florida. AUGUSTA, Dec. 19.—Advices from Florida state that there have been more battles with the Indians. Captain Parkhill has been killed and several soldiers wounded.

Arrival of the Steamer Canada, One Week Later.

HALIFAX, Dec. 18.—The steamer Canada from Liverpool, with dates to the 5th inst. has arrived here. The steamer Adriatic arrived out on the evening of the 3d.

ENGLAND.—Parliament was opened on the 3d with the delivery of the Queen's speech in person. The speech is very vague. She deplores the commercial distress and rejoices in the successes of the Indian army; commends the earnest attention of Parliament to the affairs of India; also says that no wars are entertained for the peace of Europe, and promises parliamentary reform.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer had introduced into the House of Commons a bill for the indemnity of the Bank of England, and the committee of the whole house is appointed on the bank charter.

Some additional failures have occurred at London. The new American steamer Adriatic arrived off Point Lynns on the evening of the 3d, but owing to the lowness of the water did not reach Liverpool till the afternoon of the 4th.

The launching of the Leviathan steamer is slowly progressing. The Queen's speech is tame and generally of only local interest.

In the House of Commons Lord Palmerston had given notice that he would introduce his India bill after the recess.

Spain refuses to accede to the demand of Mexico that her navy shall be received as preliminary to negotiation.

Advices from Cuba had been received at Madrid stating that the fleet was ready to sail at a moment's notice against Mexico.

Among the new failures announced are the following: Hermann, Cox & Co., of Liverpool, in the cotton trade; liabilities £30,000; Messrs. Biscoff, Bees & Co., of London, in the India trade; Mr. Joel, of Dantzic—liabilities £300,000; Messrs. Moss & Co., at Stettin—liabilities £500,000; Messrs. Hoffman & Co., of London, in the Swiss trade; P. Magee, of Liverpool, shipowner; Messrs. Dacosta & Co., of London, with liabilities amounting to £350,000, and many others.

The Home Secretary has announced that the Home Office is now at Aspinwall, and will soon be served by the Steamer Canada, under the command of Captain Paulding, has consisted of the frigates Wabash and Roanoke, and the sloop-of-war Saratoga and Cyane, with the war-steamer Susquehanna and Fulton. A large force, both in the Atlantic and Pacific, has been kept near Central America, on account of the unsatisfactory state of affairs in that part of the world.

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of the last voyage relating to the convoy which had reached port at Liverpool, last Sabbath.

FRANCE.—Another reduction of the rate of discount by the Bank of France has been made. The rates now stand at 6 7/8 and 8 per cent. for bills having not more than thirty, sixty and ninety days to run.

It is asserted that France intends strictly to avoid any interference in the Hainan dispute, which she is willing to consider as merely federal and confined to Germany.

